

Will You Let Them Take Your Crown?

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Revelation 3:10-11 (KJV) 



The above passage is a dire warning to those Christians who lightly regard their salvation. The churches must bear a lot of responsibility for instilling this lackadaisical attitude in the body of Christ with their eternal security heresy. If we are "Once Saved, Always Saved", how could someone take our crown? But they will just lie and tell you that the crown in the above passage does not represent our salvation.

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

Revelation 2:10 (KJV) 

The scripture is plain; to obtain a crown of life we must be faithful unto death. Make no mistake; no man can forcibly take our crown from us, we must willingly give it up! Would you deny Christ to save a loved one or your own hide? Christ must be number one in our lives, even before spouses and children (**Matthew 10:37 KJV** ).

Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (KJV) 

The runner is such an awesome allegory for what our attitude should be toward our salvation. What separates the weekend jogger from the world champion runner? Dedication. A lot of Christians seem to be content to jog, power walk or even casually stroll to that finish line. But we are instructed to run this race to win, to strive for first place. The world class runner never rests on their laurels, but is constantly looking to shave off seconds and even milliseconds from their time. Similarly in our walk (run?) with Christ our goal must be not to just finish but take first place!

Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any

man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

1 Corinthians 3:12-15 (KJV) 

Another concept that the churches don't teach much is that we run this race not only with the goal of salvation, but in order to obtain rewards. They seem to give the impression that "Everybody gets a car!" like on that Oprah show just for going to church. But the truth is that we are all rewarded based on our individual performance in this race.

The damnable heresy of eternal security teaches that we do not have to run the race, or fight the good fight; we simply 'choose Christ' and by doing do have fulfilled our obligations to Him. Eternal security will send countless multitudes to Hell. When left to our own devices we will always gradually slide back into sin because we are sinners. That is why we must cling to the cross as if our eternity depends on it!

We must guard our crown for it represents our salvation. Don't lay it down in exchange for the temporal pleasures of this world. Don't sell your birthright for a bowl of soup like Esau did. Christ died on that cross for the entire world so that we could have that birthright, a chance at that crown of life. But we must choose to run the race and fight the good fight.

